

Message Text

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AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0747

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, RH

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR CARTER'S APPOINTMENT WITH NDABANINGI SITHOLE

REF: DAR 1194

1. GREATLY APPRECIATE AMB CARTER'S OFFER RAISE WITH SITHOLE
ANY QUESTIONS WE MAY HAVE IF HE CAN APPROPRIATELY DO SO.
THERE OCCUR TO US SEVERAL POINTS ON WHICH WE WOULD WELCOME
HAVING SITHOLE'S VIEWS AND IMPRESSIONS. SOME, OF COURSE,
CANNOT BE BROACHED DIRECTLY BUT MAY COME OUT IN CONVERSATION
OF THEIR OWN ACCORD.

2. QUESTIONS WE HOPE MIGHT BE DISCUSSED INCLUDE:

A. PROSPECTS FOR CONVENING LONG-DELAYED ANC CONGRESS.
WE PRESUME IT TACTICALLY IMPORTANT HOLD CONGRESS BEFORE
ANY SERIOUS CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE. DOES DELAY IN HOLDING
CONGRESS REFLECT UNRESOLVED INTERNAL DIFFERENCES WITHIN
ANC OVER LEADERSHIP OR NEGOTIATING STRATEGY WITH SMITH REGIME?
OR IS IT MORE A MATTER OF CHOOSING PSYCHOLOGICAL MOMENT
WHEN FUTURE COURSE SEEMS CLEARER?

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B. HAVE DEATH OF HERBERT CHITEPO AND SUBSEQUENT ZAMBIAN

DETENTION OF LEADING ZANU OFFICIALS HERE HAD CRITICAL EFFECT ON COURSE OF EVENTS? HAVE ZAMBIAN DETENTIONS REALLY EMASCULATED ZNLA FIGHTING CAPABILITIES, AS SOME HAVE CLAIMED?

C. IN REALITY, DOES SMITH HAVE SUFFICIENT WILL AND/OR POLITICAL FLEXIBILITY TO ENTER INTO SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH ANC LEADING TOWARD MAJORITY RULE? HOW MUCH TIME DOES SMITH HAVE TO REACH NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT BEFORE ARMED STRUGGLE WILL BE RENEWED? CHICKEREMA IMPLIED TO US LAST WEEK SMITH HAS AT LEAST UNTIL ANC HAS REFUBISHED AND STRENGTHENED FIGHTING FORCE.

D. IF SMITH MET ANC CONDITIONS FOR RESUMPTION OF SALISBURY TALKS INTERRUPTED BY SITHOLE DETENTION, IS IT LIKELY NEGOTIATORS WILL SEEK BEGIN EXPLORE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES RESPECTING MAJORITY RULE, LEAVING FOR LATER RESOLUTION PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS OF VENUE AND CHAIRMANSHIP FOR CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS?

E. MUZOREWA INDICATED TO US MACHEL IS PREPARED TO APPLY SANCTIONS TO RHODESIA. ASSUME ZAIRE FACTOR HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. WE UNDERSTAND ECONOMY OF SHABA PROVINCE SIGNIFICANTLY DEPENDENT UPON RAIL LINE FROM BEIRA THROUGH RHODESIA AND ZAMBIA. ITS INTERDICTION COULD INTENSIFY ZAIRE-ZAMBIAN COMPETITION FOR LOBITO AND DAR FACILITIES. WAS QUESTION DISCUSSED AT KANANGA MEETING WHICH SITHOLE ATTENDED AND IF SO, WHAT WAS MOBUTU'S POSITION?

F. WHAT ARE SITHOLE'S VIEWS ON LEADERSHIP ROLE, PRESENT AND POTENTIAL, OF BISHOP MUZOREWA? ARE THERE ALTERNATIVES?

G. HOW DOES SITHOLE SEE HIS OWN ROLE? WHAT DOES HE THINK ARE THE BASIC ESSENTIALS TO REAL FORWARD MOVEMENT ON RHODESIAN QUESTION?
NELSON

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